(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Commission on Government Debt

4470. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Commission on Government debt cost RBI dear' appeared in the Economic Times dated August 4, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In March, 1995, the Reserve Bank of India announced a scheme of Primary Dealers in Government securities who would be assigned the task of developing the secondary market in Government securities. With a view to providing some support to Primary Dealers, effective July 10, 1996, Reserve Bank of India announced payment of commission on purchases (including the underwritting commitment) of Primary Dealers of Government securities through subscriptions in all floations in the Primary market. The cost towards payment of commission is entirely borne by the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank has undertaken the provision of commission as part of the cost of developing the market in Government securities.

[Translation]

Incentives to States for Export

4471. SHRI O.P. JINDAL:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any export target by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide any financial assistance to the State Government for promoting the export;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to involve the State Governments in export promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). A target has been fixed for export growth of around 18-20% per annum for the current financial year and 20% per annum for the Ninth Plan period, 1997-2002, in US Dollars terms.

(c) to (e). A Scheme was launched in 1993-94 under which 18 Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) have been approved for location in 18 States as industrial enclaves, organised chiefly for export production. Of the infrastructural cost of these Parks, 75% upto a limit of Rs. 10 crores is to be met by the Central Government. So far an amount of Rs. 73.26 Crores has been released to the State Governments towards implementation of these Parks. The Scheme envisages the establishment initially of one EPIP in each State.

During 1996-97 the Government has launched the 'Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme' which envisages balancing capital investments for releiving bottlenecks in infrastructure for export production and conveyance. Proposals identified for assistance under the Scheme including those of State Governments are to be financed by the Ministry of Commerce out of the special funds earmarked for the purpose. A sum of Rs. 25 crores has been earmarked for 1996-97 for the purpose.

(f) The Centre is seeking the participation of States in the provision of infrastructure, input support, reliefs from imposts, removal of constraints etc, in expanding exports. States are also consulted in matters of specific concern to them. In each State one agency has been recognised an Export House in relaxation of the criterion. State Governments have appointed Nodal Officers (Niryat Bandhus) for export promotion.

[English]

Simplification of Exim Policy

4472. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have further simplified the Export and Import (Exim) Policy and effected major changes especially in diamonds, gems and jewellery export promotion schemes to boost the export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). Simplification of the Export & Import Policy is a continuous process which is reviewed from time to time, based on, inter-

alia, inter-action with trade and industry. The revised edition of the Export and Import Policy & Procedures 1992-97, announced on 25.3.1996 consolidated the various amendments in the Policy implemented during 1995-96 to maintain the thrust for export growth and included introduction of Diamond Credit Pass Book Scheme, nomination of State Trading Corporation as one of the nominated agencies for supply of gold/silver to the jewellery exporters and provision for the establishment of private bonded warehouse for supply of rough diamonds to DTA and re-export to third country.

Royalty and Cess on Coal

4473. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been denying the due claims of different State Governments for the cess and royalty on coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of funds involved for each State concerning the coal royalty and coal cess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) Royalty on coal is a tax levied as per the rates fixed by the Central Government on tonnage basis on sale of coal but collected by the coal companies from the consumers and paid to the State Governments. The details of royalty payment made during the last three years by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) to the coal producing States are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

State	Amounts of royalty paid		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
West Bengal	10.63	9.59	7.82
Bihar	555.05	613.18	658.33
Orissa	72.82	104.08	180.79
Maharashtra	111.09	159.70	217.90
Madhya Pradesh	369.56	438.91	666.77
Uttar Pradesh	70.59	87.39	113.50
Assam	0.44	0.42	21.59
Andhra Pradesh	291.30	144.53	175.28

Cess on coal is a tax imposed by the State Governments under the respective CessActs of the States. Cess is collected ad valorem at the rates fixed by the respective States on pit-head price of coal. The details of cess paid by CIL including adjustments against the coal sale dues during the last three years to West Bengal are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount of Cess paid to West Bengal
1993-94	376.96
1994-95	300.16
1995-96	372.05

After 4.4.1991, in view of Supreme Court decision no cess on coal was payable to any State except West Bengal on which matter a case is pending in the Supreme Court.

World Bank Assistance

4474. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects being implemented in Uttar Pradesh with World Bank assistance;

(b) the details of the sector/field in which these projects are operating; and

(c) the amount released by the World Bank for each project so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The details of the projects being implemented in Uttar Pradesh with World Bank assistance are given below:-